4. (amended) [A] The package according [claims 2 and 3, characterised in that] to claim 2, wherein the heat-sealable polymer is polyethylene, the barrier layer [metal foil] is aluminum foil, and the damage protective layer is a polyester film.

5 (amended) [The use of] A method for the aseptic packaging of an intravaginal article comprising placing the article into a sachet made of a polyethylene - aluminum foil laminate and a polyester outer layer, comprising a plastic rib-and-groove reclosing means, [for the aseptic packaging of an intravaginal article, the laminate being provided with a polyester outer layer].

6. (amended) [A use of according to claim 5, characterized in that the laminate comprises] The package according to claim 1, comprising a low density polyethylene inner layer of 35-45  $\mu$ m, an aluminum foil barrier layer of 8-10  $\mu$ m, and a PET protective outer layer of 10-14  $\mu$ m.

Please add the following new claim:

-- 7. The package according to claim 1, wherein the reclosable strip comprises a rib-and-groove reclosing means. --

## REMARKS

Claims 1 - 6 are amended and claim 7 is added. Claims 1 - 7 are presented for examination.

It is believed that claims 1 - 7 recite a patentable improvement in the art. Favorable action is solicited. In then

EXPRESS MAIL EL087179937US

event any fees are required with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2334.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Blackstone Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 29,772

Attorney Docket NO. 0/97322 US

Akzo Nobel Patent Department 1300 Piccard Drive, Suite 206 Rockville, Maryland 20850-4373

Tel: (301) 948-7400 Fax: (301) 948-9751

WMB:jlc

50FREDERICK-PRELIMINARY